

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Operations (Thursday, May 26, 2016) (Sutter)

Present

Board: Directors John Sutter (Chair), Doug Siden, Ayn Wieskamp

Staff: Jim O'Connor, Mimi Waluch, Mark Ragatz, Kelly Barrington, Denise Valentine, Noah Dort, Kate Collins, Philip Coffin, Nate Luna, Dave Zuckermann, Ira Bletz, Juliana Schirmer

Guests: Judi Bank

Agenda Item I: California Park and Recreation Society 2015 Creating Community Award of Excellence: Teen Eco Action

Northwest Regional Services Manager Dave Zuckermann provided a brief introduction of the Teen Eco Action program, which received the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) 2015 Award of Excellence this year. The CPRS Award recognizes an organization's ability to challenge issues, develop creative and innovative solutions, execute strategic outreach plans, and create community benefits in the areas of improvements and programming, facility design, park planning, marketing and communications; and professional and citizen leadership.

Recreation Coordinator Philip Coffin explained his role within the collaboration, and provided a detailed overview of the program through a PowerPoint presentation. Details provided included the total teens served per week each summer, the focus and goals of the program, weekly schedule of activities, names of the agency partners and their role. Coffin shared the skills that are taught including archery, biking, canoeing, fishing, hiking and kayaking. Natural and Cultural Historic Interpretation education is given including birding, botany, and ecology. Surveys with specific questions are conducted following the programs. Coffin concluded his presentation by sharing program testimonials.

Director Wieskamp commented that she found the program to be enlightening and applauded staff on the great job they are doing with the program. She mentioned on the possibility of conducting this program in another area of the District in the future.

Director Sutter commented that it is a great program and that teens have a variety of experiences in this program to take advantage of.

Director Siden recognized the Regional Parks Foundation for their assistance with transportation.

Zuckermann provided a summary of the costs that the Regional Parks Foundation covers. Staff is currently considering how to develop and expand the program. Coyote Hills is under consideration as the next location.

Assistant General Manager Jim O'Connor mentioned that potentially Del Valle will be considered as a future location at the expanded visitor center.

Agenda Item 2: Review Caretaker Contract for Services: Vasco Caves Regional Preserve (VCRP)

Administrative Analyst Noah Dort provided a brief history of the caretaker services at VCRP. He explained that the current contract for services with Mr. Neil Nobriga began on January 12, 2012 and will expire on July 11, 2016. The notice of the available contract caretaker position was posted in newspapers and online advertisements. Qualified candidates were interviewed by District staff, and Nobriga is considered to be the best candidate for this contract position.

As the current caretaker, with over four years of experience, Nobriga is familiar with the Preserve, the surrounding areas, and has extensive training and experience that make him an ideal candidate for the position. Nobriga is an Army veteran, a California Certified Police Officer, and held a position as a Park Ranger at Oakwood Lake.

Siden inquired on the length of the contract. Dort replied the contract is one year with a two-one year extension. This allows District staff to review the caretaker services provided each year and provides the opportunity for the process to open up to future potential caretakers.

O'Connor added that staff has been presented with challenges from caretakers in the past, especially at VCRP.

Wieskamp commented that Nobriga has proved himself as a caretaker at the site and doesn't see why the District needs to complete a one year at a time contract, instead offer Nobriga a 3 year contract.

Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch provided an explanation of the caretaker services process and the reasoning for the contract term. Dort added that the contract is consistent with other District caretaker contracts.

Sutter inquired if we have been able to avoid any additional issues at the site. Dort replied the District did have a death related incident surrounding the theft of copper and some graffiti, however, issues have been reduced since Nobriga has been on site. Sutter asked if the contract has been reviewed by Legal. Dort replied yes. Sutter inquired on how many hours Nobriga is required to be on site. Dort stated Nobriga can leave for up to 8 hours at a time. Sutter questioned what happens when Nobriga is off site. Dort stated District staff is notified and are near the site during that time.

Wieskamp moved to approve and recommend to the full Board the staff recommendation of entering into a Caretaker Contract for Services for Vasco Caves Regional Preserve with Nobriga. The initial term of the contract would be one year, commencing July 12, 2016, with the possibility of two one-year extensions upon mutual agreement between the District and Nobriga. The cost to the District

for this action is \$38,613.96 per year, to increase by 1.5% annually during the term of this contract. The initial annual contract costs compute to \$3,217.83 per month for providing caretaker services at Vasco Caves Regional Preserve. Siden seconded. The item passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Update Maintenance Contracts & Encroachment Services: Sunol Regional Wilderness Bat Exclusion Project

Administrative Analyst Nate Luna provided, through a PowerPoint presentation, a detailed overview of the Bat Exclusion Project. Following the completion of a survey, there was found to be four species of bats with colonies in the hundreds at the site. Luna reviewed the issues in having the bats onsite, which led to the creation of the Bat Exclusion Plan. Other animals found in the green barn were mentioned, along with an overview of the project goals, description, budget, issues, and highlights. Luna displayed before and after photos of the barn and the bat boxes that were installed.

Siden inquired if all the bats overwinter at the site. Luna stated most of them do not, but a few do and we are not sure why. Sutter inquired if the project was completed by District staff. Luna replied it was completed by outside contractors and the twelve bats found were relocated. Sutter questioned if the site is now bat free. Luna indicated a few bats were located and that staff located the entrance and corrected it.

Agenda Item 4: Review of Interpretive Pavilion: Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area

Chief of Interpretive and Recreation Services Anne Kassebaum presented on how the Harrington's approached the District about building an interpretive pavilion. The District is working with Architect Jim Devlin on a plan for costs of the pavilion and the Harrington's will contribute \$200k to the Regional Parks Foundation for the project. Staff provided the project criteria for the structure with the staff architect providing two proposals.

Southeast Regional Services Manager Ira Bletz recalled a survey which was conducted to find a space larger than 1000 feet, which would include ADA accessibility, power, and access to water. Five sites were identified.

Wieskamp commented that three of the sites looked appealing. She mentioned the Harrington's are into art and are educators and excited about having a site at Shadow Cliffs that serves the public.

Sutter requested to be given more details on the pavilion. Bletz replied the pavilion will be a large shade structure with seating and exhibits, some interactive. Sutter inquired if a park residence will be at the site. Bletz responded no. Sutter inquired on security to which Bletz replied that the site will be visible to park staff.

Siden inquired on what the pavilion would look like. Bletz referred to the Waterbird at Sibley as the closest example.

Sutter inquired if this was in the vision of the land use plan. Bletz replied yes.

O'Connor commented that this is an important model for the District.

Siden inquired on the expectations of naming the site. O'Connor replied staff is not preparing for that action at this stage in the process.

Agenda Item 5: Review of Cajun-Zydeco Musical Festival: Ardenwood Historic Farm

Southeast Regional Services Manager Ira Bletz began by providing a historical background of the festival and shared the signature special events and the special event partnerships with the Committee. Bletz reviewed the statistics for the event visitors by county, measured repeated visitorship, and the festival attendance from 2010-2015. Over the last five years the attendance has declined, dropping by a third. Last year additional advertising was completed through social media. Bletz reviewed the upfront costs expended for the festival, and District staffing needs for the event day.

Bletz covered special event life spans for nine events that have come and gone at Ardenwood Historic Farm. Sutter inquired if this life span is a typical experience at other parks. Bletz replied yes, that very often the event gets re-branded, have new elements added, and often an event after three to seven years will lose its audience. As an alternative to presenting Cajun Zydeco following this year, we are recommending to have an overnight camping program partnering with community organizations. The goal is to find families interested in camping and bring them to Ardenwood Historic Farm, which has all the facilities to conduct a wonderful joint camping experience between Interpretation and Outdoor Recreation.

Wieskamp inquired what if an educator requested a single classroom for camping education. Bletz replied that the park has previously hosted some camping experiences. A few for schools and some for scout organizations.

Siden encouraged a survey to be conducted on the degree of interest in having camping at the park, as most camping is done outside the local areas and this site is right around the corner. Bletz mentioned there have been some preliminary discussions with some community partners about this idea and they are excited about it because the park is close to home, which brings an element of safety for them. In addition, Ardenwood is a place you cannot normally be in the evening, so they would be taking advantage of the farm life aspect, how the farm changes, and the programming around the camping experience.

Bletz mentioned the park boasts one of the movie nights with Outdoor Recreation, which is very popular, as well as the Annual Tuesday Twilight Evening program. The public enjoys being given the opportunity to come into the park after hours.

Siden moved to approve the staff recommendation for the Cajun Zydeco Event to be discontinued and replaced with a family camping program presented in collaboration with community partners. Wieskamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Open Forum for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 7: AGM Comments

O'Connor provided the following updates:

- At the request of the Committee, the Concession Revenue Expenditure Report has been distributed to the Board members.
- The June 16, 2016 Board Operations Committee meeting has been cancelled.
- Tours of the Land Bank Properties are continuing and new tours are being scheduled.
- The City of Fremont unanimously passed the Permit Parking program for the Stanford area of Mission Peak. The program should begin on September 1, 2016.

Sutter inquired if any members of the public appeared to oppose the Permit Parking program. O'Connor replied there were two people who spoke, who did oppose the program with one person who thought the City should have installed parking meters in lieu of the program. O'Connor reminded the Committee that the program is temporary through the end of the District's lease, which ends in 2021.

- The criteria and list of recipients for the Operations Employee Recognition Awards has been distributed to the Board members.
- The request to have a Board Operations Committee meeting at Tilden has been scheduled for September.
- A copy of the Kampgrounds of America (KOA) Camping Report was distributed to the Committee members. The report included information covering convenience camping, preferences of the public, and supports the program and the direction the District is moving towards.
- Sutter requested an update of the Anthony Chabot Gun Club (Club). O'Connor stated at this point, the District is having difficulty finalizing the lease extension. District Counsel Carol Victor has sent the Club a draft of the extension, the Club has yet to respond.

Agenda Item 8: Board Comments

- Siden commended Bletz on his presentation on the overview and status of the Cajun Zydeco Festival, and for the recommendation of the new family camping program to take its place at Ardenwood Historic Farm.
- Siden stated that the decision to close the Anthony Chabot Gun Club was a difficult one and inquired if it was possible to use non-led bullets at the facility. O'Connor replied once the District closes the club, there may be other opportunities for private entities or individuals to take it on as a business opportunity.

Director Sutter adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
/s/ Denise Valentine
Executive Secretary

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